



PHIPPS

## International Wine Challenge reveals the four top award-winning UK wine regions as supermarket own-label wines take top medals

The [International Wine Challenge](#), the world's most influential, impartial and rigorously judged global wine competition, has announced the results of its 2023 competition. Thousands of wines from over 50 countries were entered into the competition and blind tasted by an international panel of experts last month, with awards going to over 6,000 wines from across the world.

The results of this year's challenge prove that the UK is spoilt for choice when it comes to award-winning wine. It was a sensational year for homegrown wines, with four regions in particular asserting their dominance. Meanwhile, UK supermarkets also made their mark, racking up hundreds of medals and demonstrating that top quality wine doesn't need to come at top prices.

### Four regions sparkle as they display their excellence

In this year's challenge, England's sparkling wines triumphed once again, coming second only to France for gold medals while the nation also continued to burnish its reputation as a producer of world-class still wines, winning a total of 24 medals for still styles. Medals were won by producers in 19 regions across England and Wales including as far north as Staffordshire and Shropshire but more than 65% of the medals were split between just four exceptional wine-producing regions...

Kent led the medal wins for English wines with 27 medals, including two Golds which were both awarded to **Chapel Down**. In addition to Golds for its **Kit's Coty Coeur De Cuvée 2016** and its **Grand Reserve 2018**, the Kent producer secured a further six Silver or Bronze medals. Other notable successes came for **Gusbourne** which was awarded a total of seven medals and **Balfour Winery** which took home six.

Sussex also demonstrated its sparkling wine prowess, with a total of 23 medals, three of which were Gold. One of these Golds went to **Rathfinny Wine Estate** for its **Blanc de Blancs 2018**, while it also took home a further three medals, making it the most awarded winery in Sussex. **Busi Jacobsohn Wine Estate** was also awarded a Gold for its **Blanc de Noirs 2018** while **Wiston Estate** claimed the third Gold medal for its **Blanc de Blancs 2018**.

Hampshire's wines triumphed in this year's challenge, with more Gold medals than any other English region as well as the top trophy for English sparkling wine. **Hattingley Valley's Blanc de Blancs 2014** was awarded both the **English Blanc de Blancs Sparkling Trophy** as well as the prestigious **English Sparkling Trophy**. Gold medals also went to Hampshire producers, **The Grange**, **Raimes** and **Candover Valley Wines** whose **Candover Brook Brut** took home the **English Classic Blend Sparkling Trophy**.

Cornwall bagged a total of twelve medals, all of which were shared between just two producers. **Camel Valley** produced an exceptional set of results, taking home a Gold medal for its **Annie's Anniversary Brut 2018** in addition to four Silver medals, five Bronze and one Commended. Camel Valley was recognised not only for its still and sparkling whites and rosés but also for its **Sparkling Red 2021** which was one of the highest performing sparkling reds in the challenge. **Trevibban Mill** was the only other Cornish producer to gain a coveted medal.

Elsewhere in the UK, the **English White Trophy** was awarded to **Lyme Bay Winery** for its **Martin's Lane Chardonnay 2020** while Devon's **Lympstone Manor Estate** took home the **English Red Trophy** for its **Triassic Pinot Noir 2020**.

Helen McGinn, one of the six Co-Chairs of the International Wine Challenge commented, *“England, particularly regions in the south, has been internationally recognised for the production of world-class sparkling wines for some time now. In recent years, England’s still wines have also come on leaps and bounds and it is great to see both reds and whites recognised with trophies in this year’s challenge.”*

#### Top four English regions ranked by total medals

Region	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Commended	Total medals
Kent	2	10	15	5	27
Sussex	3	10	10	5	23
Hampshire	4	4	7		15
Cornwall	1	4	7	4	12

#### British supermarkets reveal the quality in their wine aisles

In this year’s challenge, 287 medals were awarded to UK supermarkets, with 210 of these going to own-label wines. There was a draw at the top of the table with Asda and Tesco each receiving 63 medals for their own-label ranges. Tesco and Aldi both took home two Golds for their own-label offerings while Marks and Spencer, Co-op and Morrisons each received one.

Tesco, Aldi and Morrisons were all recognised for their fortified wines. The four ports to take home Golds were **Tesco Finest Vintage Port 2013**, **Morrisons The Best LBV Port 2017**, Aldi’s **10yr Old Tawny Port** and **Fletcher’s 40 Year Old Tawny Port**, also from Aldi. Tesco also received a Gold for its **Tesco Finest Pedro Ximenez**. Marks and Spencer was the only supermarket to win a Gold medal for an own-label still wine which was awarded to its **M&S Collection Susana Balbo Malbec 2022** while Co-op was the only supermarket to take this accolade for a sparkling wine with its **Co-op Les Pionniers Vintage Champagne 2013**. All seven of these wines are available on supermarket shelves for under £30.

IWC Co-Chair Oz Clarke, commented, *“With almost 300 medals awarded to supermarket wines, there really is an abundance of choice for those after high-quality wine at affordable prices. An International Wine Challenge medal gives consumers the confidence to pick up a bargain, knowing that it has been given the seal of approval by a panel of skilled expert palates.”*

#### Supermarket Superstars: Own-Label Gold Medal Winners



**M&S Collection Susana Balbo Malbec 2022,**  
£12.00 Marks and Spencer



**Co-op Les Pionniers Vintage Champagne 2013**  
£29.00 Co-op



**Tesco Finest Pedro Ximenez**  
£6.50 Tesco



**10yr Old Tawny Port**  
£8.99, Aldi



**Morrisons The Best LBV Port 2017**  
£11.50 Morrisons



**Tesco Finest Vintage Port 2013**  
£20.00 Tesco



**Fletcher's 40 Year Old Tawny Port**  
£29.99, Aldi

### Own-label supermarket medals

Supermarket own label	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Commended	Total medals
Aldi	2	4	15	18	21
Asda	0	23	40	55	63
Co-op	1	3	7	4	11
Marks and Spencer	1	9	6	4	16
Morrisons	1	4	5	4	10
Tesco	2	19	42	42	63
Waitrose	0	15	11	6	26

### Outstanding wines at affordable prices

The IWC also announced the winners of its IWC Great Value Awards, which saw three Waitrose own-label wines receiving Great Value Awards, closely followed by Tesco with two.

### IWC Great Value Award winners 2023

IWC Great Value Award Winners 2023	Wine Name	Price	Stockist
IWC Great Value White under £8	Extra Special Rueda 2022	£6.00	Asda

IWC Great Value White between £8 and £12	Waitrose Foundation Chenin Blanc 2022	£11.99	Waitrose
IWC Great Value White Under £15	Esk Valley Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 2022	£14.85	www.northandsouthwines.co.uk, www.winedirect.co.uk, ND John, Bon Coeur Fine Wines, Woodwinters Wines & Whiskies, The Oxford Wine Company, Cambridge Wine Merchants, Stone Vine and Sun, House of Townend
IWC Great Value Rosé £8 and under	Fleur de Lise 2022	£8.00	Marks and Spencer
IWC Great Value Rosé between £8 and £12	Waitrose Loved and Found Sciaccarellu Rosé 2021	£8.99	Waitrose
IWC Great Value Rosé between £8 and £12	Arbousset Tavel 2022	£12.00	Tesco
IWC Great Value Red £8 and under	Trivento Reserve Shiraz 2022	£8.00	Tesco
IWC Great Value Red between £8 and £12	M&S Collection Susana Balbo Malbec 2022	£12.00	Marks and Spencer
IWC Great Value Red Under £15	Rabbit & Spaghetti Clare Valley Shiraz 2021	£14.99	Naked Wines
IWC Great Value Sparkling under £12	Cremant de Bordeaux Brut	£10.00	Marks and Spencer
IWC Great Value Sparkling between £12 and £20	Crémant de Bourgogne Brut	£13.00	Asda
IWC Great Value Sparkling under £25	Gran Reserva Josep Valls Extra Brut 2019	£21.30	www.vinissimus.co.uk, www.vinvm.co.uk
IWC Great Value Sweet under £8	Tesco Finest Dessert Semillon 2018	£6.25	Tesco
IWC Great Value Sweet Under £15	The Ned Noble Sauvignon Blanc 2022	£14.99	Majestic, Ocado
IWC Great Value Fortified under £8	Tesco Finest Pedro Ximenez	£6.50	Tesco
IWC Great Value Fortified between £8 and £12	Waitrose & Partners Nº1 Palo Cortado Torre del Oro	£11.99	Waitrose
IWC Great Value Fortified Under £15	Blandy's 5 Year Old Reserva	£14.99	Waitrose, Cambridge Wine Merchants

The full list of 2023 International Wine Challenge award winners released on 18<sup>th</sup> May can be seen [here](#). The IWC Champion Wines for 2023 which are selected following a re-tasting by the IWC Co-Chairs of all the trophy-winning wines, will be revealed at the IWC 2023 Awards announcement on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July.

**ENDS**

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**NOTES TO EDITORS:**

**The International Wine Challenge**

In its 39<sup>th</sup> year, the International Wine Challenge is widely acknowledged as the world’s most rigorous, impartial, influential and global wine competition. The International Wine Challenge assesses every wine ‘blind’ and judges each for its faithfulness to style, region and vintage. Awards include medals (Gold, Silver, Bronze) and Commended awards. Trophies are awarded to the very best wines in each category. The International Wine Challenge is committed to helping consumers discover great wine, and the medals displayed on winning bottles offer a trusted guarantee of quality.

For more information on the IWC, please contact the IWC team at Phipps  
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#### International Wine Challenge Results 2023: Top 10 Countries ranked by Gold medal wins

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Commended
France	70	321	446	350
Australia	62	250	199	129
Portugal	49	174	176	206
Spain	40	200	249	304
New Zealand	38	107	110	68
Argentina	19	110	110	107
South Africa	15	90	123	103
Austria	14	44	32	20
Italy	13	118	219	275
Great Britain	13	45	59	34

#### Overall supermarket medals (including own label wines)

Supermarket	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Commended	Total medals
Aldi	2	4	15	18	21
Asda	0	27	48	65	75
Co-op	1	5	11	6	17
Marks and Spencer	1	18	16	18	35
Morrisons	1	4	7	5	12
Tesco	2	23	54	61	79
Waitrose	3	19	26	19	48